

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of ~~distributing music to customer households~~ comprising ~~the steps of:~~
~~blanket transmitting simultaneously a plurality of music selections to a plurality of customer households for receipt on a plurality of inputs;~~
~~providing at least one customer household with information identifying available music selections that will be transmitted;~~
~~enabling the at least one customer household to preselect and record transmitted music selections in a storage medium;~~
permitting ~~the~~ at least one customer household to select previously recorded music selections, that were previously recorded by the at least one customer household in ~~the~~ a storage medium, for unrestricted playback;
communicating unrestricted playback selection information regarding previously recorded music selection from the at least one customer household to a central controller system; and
billing the at least one customer household for the recorded music selections that are selected for unrestricted playback.
2. (currently amended) The method ~~for distributing music~~ as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein said transmitting step includes~~ further comprising transmitting digital music content at data transmission rates faster than real time to the customer households.
3. (currently amended) The method ~~for distributing music~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information includes music selection content availability, scheduling and content pricing data.

4. (currently amended) The method ~~for distributing music~~ as claimed in Claim 3, ~~wherein said enabling step includes~~ further comprising providing an interactive program guide via a display device for enabling customers to select available digital music content and select functions for recording said music content and functions for playing back recorded music content.

5. (currently amended) The method ~~for distributing music~~ as claimed in Claim 4, further comprising ~~the steps of~~: receiving and decoding transmitted music selection and associated information and storing decoded music selections and associated information in a digital data storage device for temporary storage thereof.

6. (currently amended) The method ~~for distributing music~~ as claimed in Claim 5, further comprising ~~the step of~~ providing remote access to said decoded content availability, scheduling and content pricing data, said remote access including a direct Internet access link to a website of the content provider or via phone line connection.

7. (currently amended) The method ~~for distributing music~~ as claimed in Claim 6, further ~~including~~ comprising ~~the step of~~ enabling a customer to listen to decoded and stored music selections one or more times on a no-charge basis prior to permanently selecting said recorded music selection that the customer desires to maintain for unrestricted playback.

8. (currently amended) The method ~~for distributing music~~ as claimed in Claim 7, further ~~including~~ comprising ~~the step of~~ generating a permanent enabling code for inclusion with said permanent recorded music selections to thereby enable unrestricted playback.

9. (currently amended) The method ~~for distributing music~~ as claimed in Claim 1, ~~wherein further comprising transmitting digital music content to the customer households,~~ wherein further comprising transmitting digital music content to the customer households, ~~said broadcasting transmission system includes via~~ a direct broadcast satellite (DBS) system, said transmitting ~~step~~ comprising: scheduling and transmitting encoded music content to a direct broadcast satellite up-link facility via ~~said~~ a central controller, ~~said means additionally~~ and transmitting program/pricing information to said up-link facility on a periodic basis.

10. (currently amended) A device ~~system for distributing music to customer households~~ comprising:

~~a transmission means operable to:~~
~~simultaneously blanket transmit a plurality of music selections and information identifying available music selections to a plurality of customer households; and~~
~~provide at least one customer household with information identifying available music selections that will be transmitted;~~
~~a computer based recording, storage and playback station at the least one customer household, said station comprising:~~
~~means a mechanism configured to enabling permit the~~ at least one customer household to preselect and record transmitted music selections in a storage medium;
~~means for a mechanism configured to receiving receive simultaneous~~ transmission of multiple music selections ~~on a plurality of inputs and for configured to recording the received music selections in a storage medium;~~
~~means- a mechanism configured to enabling enable the at least one customer household~~ to select previously recorded music selections, that were previously recorded by the at least one customer household in the storage medium, for unrestricted playback; and
~~means for a mechanism configured to communicating communicate~~ unrestricted playback selection information regarding ~~a~~ previously recorded music selection, that was previously recorded by the at least one customer household in the storage medium, from the at least one customer household to a central controller system; ~~and~~
~~a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the at least one customer household for the recorded music selections that are selected for unrestricted playback.~~

11. (currently amended) The ~~system for distributing music~~ device as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said transmission ~~means of multiple music selections includes is via a~~ direct broadcast satellite (DBS) system.

12. (currently amended) The ~~system for distributing music~~ device as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said transmission ~~means is transmission of transmits~~ digital music content at a data transmission rates faster than real time.

13. (currently amended) The ~~system for distributing music~~ device as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said ~~information transmission includes~~ comprises music selection content availability, scheduling and content pricing data.

14. (currently amended) The ~~system for distributing music~~ device as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said ~~means mechanism~~ permitting the customer household to preselect desired transmitted music selections for recording ~~includes comprises an~~ interactive ~~means providing~~ a program guide mechanism ~~via a display device for~~ enabling customers to select available digital music content, ~~said interactive means further and~~ enabling the customer to select functions for recording said music content and functions for playing back recorded music content.

15. (currently amended) The ~~system for distributing music~~ device as claimed in Claim 13, ~~wherein said computer based recording, storage and playback station further comprises~~ comprising a decoder device ~~for configured to receiving receive and decoding decode~~ transmitted music selections and associated information and ~~storing store~~ decoded music selections and associated information in a digital data storage device for temporary storage thereof.

16. (currently amended) The ~~system for distributing music~~ device as claimed in Claim 13, further comprising ~~means a mechanism configured to enabling enable~~ remote access to said ~~decoded~~ content availability, scheduling and content pricing data, said remote access is via a ~~including~~ a direct Internet access link to a website of ~~the a~~ content provider or via phone line connection.

17. (currently amended) The ~~system for distributing music~~ device as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said storage medium includes one selected from the group consisting: comprising a read/write CD's, write only CD's, DVD RAM, magneto-optical disc, and digital tape, ~~said means for recording including a device having a write/read mechanism for recording and playback of music content thereof.~~

18. (currently amended) The ~~system for distributing music~~ device as claimed in Claim 15, further ~~including~~ comprising means a mechanism configured to enabling enable a customer to listen to decoded and stored music selections one or more times on a no-charge basis prior to permanently selecting said recorded music selections that the customer desires to maintain for unrestricted playback.

19. (currently amended) The ~~system for distributing music~~ device as claimed in Claim 18, further comprising means for a mechanism configured to receive generating a permanent enabling code that is provided subsequent to the recording of music selections that operates in cooperation with said permanent recorded music selections to thereby enable said unrestricted playback.

20. (currently amended) The ~~system for distributing music~~ device as claimed in Claim 16, further comprising means for a mechanism configured to receive music content scheduling and transmitting encoded music content to from a direct broadcast satellite up-link facility via said central controller, ~~said means additionally transmitting and receive~~ program/pricing information transmitted to said up-link facility on a periodic basis.

21. (currently amended) The ~~system for distributing music~~ device as claimed in Claim 11, wherein said direct broadcast satellite transmission operates in the KU Band of signals frequency communication, or other suitable frequency bands.

22. (currently amended) The ~~system for distributing music~~ device as claimed in Claim 11, wherein ~~said means for recording desired music selections in a storage medium direct includes~~ said storage medium comprises a multiple disc platter for storing multiple disks each comprising recorded stored multimedia content.

23. (currently amended) The ~~system for distributing music~~ device as claimed in Claim 11, ~~wherein said computer based recording, storage and playback station further includes~~ comprises digital content/programming transmission links including one or more selected from the group comprising: cable, optical fiber, DSL and Internet connections.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitted music is recorded on DVD RAM.

25. (currently amended) The system of claim 10, wherein the ~~means for recording~~ mechanism comprises DVD RAM.

26. (currently amended) A method of distributing music to customer households comprising ~~the steps of:~~

~~blanket transmitting at faster than real time speeds a plurality of music selections to a plurality of customer households;~~

~~providing at least one customer household with information identifying available music selections that will be transmitted;~~

~~enabling the at least one customer household to preselect and record transmitted music selections;~~

permitting ~~the~~ at least one customer household to select previously recorded music selections that were transmitted at faster than real time speeds and, ~~that~~ were previously recorded by the at least one customer household in the storage medium, for unrestricted playback;

communicating unrestricted playback selection information regarding the previously recorded music selections, that were previously recorded by the at least one customer household in the storage medium, from the at least one customer household to a central controller system; and

billing the at least one customer household for the recorded music selections that are selected for unrestricted playback.

27. (currently amended) A ~~system for distributing music to customer households~~ comprising:

~~a transmitter blanket transmitting, at faster than real time speeds, a plurality of music selections and information identifying available music selections to a plurality of customer households;~~

a computer-based recording, storage and playback station ~~at least one customer household~~, said station comprising:

a ~~first~~ first interface enabling the customer to preselect, from the transmitted availability information, available music selections for recording;

a recording module recording transmitted music selections in a storage medium;

a second interface enabling the customer to select previously recorded music selections, that were previously recorded by the at least one customer household in the storage medium, to maintain for unrestricted playback; and

an output communicating unrestricted playback selection information from the user station to a central controller system; and,

a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the at least one customer household for the recorded music selections, that were previously recorded by the at least one customer household in the storage medium and that are selected for unrestricted playback.

28. (currently amended) A method of distributing music to customer households comprising ~~the steps of~~:

~~blanket~~ transmitting a plurality of music selections to a plurality of customer households;

providing at least one customer household with information identifying available music selections that will be transmitted;

enabling the at least one customer household to preselect and record transmitted music selections on DVD-RAM;

permitting the at least one customer household to select previously recorded music selections, that were previously recorded by the at least one customer household in the storage medium, for unrestricted playback;

communicating unrestricted playback selection information from the at least one customer household to a central controller system; and

billing the at least one customer household for the recorded music selections that were previously recorded by the at least one customer household in the storage medium and that are selected for unrestricted playback.

29. (canceled).

30. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~29~~ 28, wherein the DVD RAM recording module further comprises a multidisk DVD RAM platter.

31. (currently amended) A user station for enabling unrestricted playback of previously recorded music selections, the system comprising the components of:

a first interface enabling ~~the~~ a customer to select previously recorded music selections that were previously recorded by the customer in a storage medium, to maintain the recorded music selections for unrestricted playback;

a second interface configured to for communicating communicate unrestricted playback selection information from the user station to a central controller system and for receiving enabling information for enabling unrestricted playback of the previously recorded music selections; and

a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the customer associated with the user station for the recorded music selections that are selected for unrestricted playback.